

Protecting our children should be a national priority. I urge my colleagues and others to support child abuse prevention efforts to protect our nation's greatest resource, our children. Working together, we can help end child abuse.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, April 2, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,745,399,258,826.83, Five trillion, seven hundred forty-five billion, three hundred ninety-nine million, two hundred fifty-eight thousand, eight hundred twenty-six dollars and eighty-three cents.

Five years ago, April 2, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,120,563,000,000, Five trillion, one hundred twenty billion, five hundred sixty-three million.

Ten years ago, April 2, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,464,021,000,000, Three trillion, four hundred sixty-four billion, twenty-one million.

Fifteen years ago, April 2, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,005,753,000,000, Two trillion, five billion, seven hundred fifty-three million.

Twenty-five years ago, April 2, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$599,291,000,000, Five hundred ninety-nine billion, two hundred ninety-one million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,146,108,258,826.83, Five trillion, one hundred forty-six billion, one hundred eight million, two hundred fifty-eight thousand, eight hundred twenty-six dollars and eighty-three cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE GRAND OPENING OF THE ABERDEEN COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the veterans community of Aberdeen on the opening, on April 11, 2001, of their new Aberdeen Community Based Outpatient Clinic. This important event brings the health benefits that our veterans so richly deserve closer to home.

I would like to commend Ron Porzio, the chief operating officer of the Veterans Administration Medical and Regional Office Center in Sioux Falls, the area veterans service officers, Brown County Veterans Service Officer Tom Gohn, veterans service organizations and the Aberdeen area veterans who have done such an outstanding job of making this project a reality.

I was pleased to hear that Avera United Clinic was named the provider for the new VA outpatient clinic in Aberdeen. Avera has made a solid investment in the community and the state, and it was only logical that the clinic

should provide quality health care services to our veterans in the Aberdeen area. This is good news for veterans in northeastern South Dakota because they will be able to receive many medical services at the clinic without having to drive several hours to the Sioux Falls veterans hospital.

Congratulations also need to go to Avera St. Luke's Hospital, Dr. Steve Redmond, Physician's Assistant Kevin Vaughan, Clinic Administrator Leonard Severson, the clinic's support staff, and CR Associates on their new partnership with the VA.

Veterans are our country's heroes, and their selfless actions will inspire generations of Americans yet to come. Our country must honor its commitments to veterans, not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because it is the smart thing to do.

I will continue to lead efforts to ensure that our nation's military retirees and veterans receive the benefits they were promised years ago. While I am pleased with some improvements in military health care funding passed into law last year, I am concerned that more needs to be done. Assuredly, I will continue to fight for military retirees and veterans programs throughout this session of Congress.●

HONORING THE CENTRAL BUCKS EAST CHOIR OF BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to recognize an outstanding group of young people from Bucks County, PA. The Central Bucks East High School Choirs, under the direction of E. Scott Teschner and the String Orchestra, under the direction of Eileen Telly, traveled to Washington, DC and Virginia to be adjudicated in Music Festivals throughout the weekend of March 30, 2001.

The 25-member String Orchestra performed at Lanier Middle School in Fairfax, VA on Saturday, March 31, and the choirs sang at W.T. Woodson High School, also in Fairfax. These choirs include a 165-voice Concert Choir, 16-voice Varsity Singers, 16-voice Men's Ensemble and 27-voice Women's Ensemble. Later that evening, these talented students celebrated at an awards banquet and dance, and on Sunday, April 1, 2001, they traveled to the West Terrace of the United States Capitol for a public performance.

This group of students has been recognized for their outstanding choral abilities in Washington, Williamsburg, Orlando, Boston, and Montreal. In addition, they have been recognized since 1991 as the "Outstanding Choral Program" in every festival in which they have participated. Performances are judged according to National Standards of Excellence by college choral professors, and the Central Bucks East

Choirs consistently earn "Superior" ratings. In addition, they are frequently honored with the "Special Adjudicators Award for Distinguished Performance," presented only to the elite choirs in the nation. These singers have also received the "Spirit of the Festival Award" for the last 2 years, which is awarded to the organization that best represents their community and school, and that is the most cooperative and enthusiastic during the festival.

It is without a doubt that this group is an outstanding representation of young people in Pennsylvania and across the country. They have demonstrated tremendous talent both musically and through their leadership and maturity. I enthusiastically congratulate the Choirs and String Orchestra from Central Bucks High School-East, and I extend my best wishes for their future success.●

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. ARBELIA GREER PENNINGTON WOOD

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am delighted to rise today to acknowledge and congratulate Mrs. Arbelia Greer Pennington Wood, a resident from my home State of Michigan, who will be celebrating her 116th birthday on Friday, April 6, 2001.

The child of a sharecropper, Mrs. Wood, who is affectionately called "Ma" by her nephews and nieces, was born in Caledonia, MS in 1885. Raised in Alabama, she moved to Detroit in 1934. Throughout her life, she has been guided by devotion to her family and a deep and abiding faith. Though widowed twice, Mrs. Wood has never been alone. She has been actively involved in the lives of her extended family, which includes not only her nieces and nephews, but also children in her neighborhood. Family members and friends have all commented on her cooking abilities and her ability to teach families about cooking, grammar and even carpentry.

In addition to a multitude of nephews and nieces, Mrs. Wood has been blessed to be part of a family noted for its longevity. Her mother lived to be ninety-three years old. A brother of hers lived to be eighty-nine, and many of her younger siblings are currently in their eighties and nineties. One of her nieces has designed a website dedicated to her beloved "Ma." On that website is posted a verse from the Book of Genesis: "Sarah lived to be 127 years old." I cannot help but think that this verse has not only been an inspiration but also a challenge to Ardelia's family.

Mrs. Wood has seen the turn of two centuries. She has also displayed immense courage throughout her life. Twice she has successfully battled breast cancer. In addition, she has participated as a civil rights activist. As a

child, Mrs. Woods refused to take the advice of her white doctors to identify herself as being Caucasian. Later in life, she demanded that a Mt. Clemens, MI restaurant serve herself and her darker skinned husband whom they were denying service. The restaurant eventually relented. Arbelia has witnessed the many changes that have affected our society. By caring for her family, actively participating in her church and serving as a midwife, Arbelia Greer Pennington Wood has quietly worked to make this country a better place. Such daily acts of commitment and civic duty are the foundation upon which this nation is built.

Mrs. Arbelia Greer Pennington Wood can take pride on the occasion of her 116th birthday. I am honored to join her family in wishing her a blessed and happy birthday. I hope my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating Mrs. Arbelia Greer Pennington Wood.●

TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN RED CROSS, MID-RIO GRANDE CHAPTER

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an organization that celebrates a special anniversary in New Mexico this month. The Red Cross, Mid-Rio Grande Chapter this April celebrates its 85th anniversary of being a humanitarian presence in my home state.

Last May, the devastating Cerro Grande wildfire destroyed hundreds of homes in Los Alamos and caused the evacuation of more than 25,000 people in the region. New Mexico residents, business leaders and numerous agencies generously responded to support a relief effort. But one agency stood out as a leader in the swift response to meet emergency needs of the thousands of families affected: the American Red Cross.

The Albuquerque-based Mid-Rio Grande Chapter serves as the Red Cross' lead unit for disaster services in New Mexico. As such, the Mid-Rio Grande Chapter, working with sister chapters in Los Alamos and Santa Fe, coordinated more than 2,000 volunteers to help ensure that shelters were opened, meals were served, and mental health counselors, nurses, caseworkers and others were available to work with families faced with rebuilding their homes and their lives.

This relief effort, while one of the largest in the state's history, is only one example of the services this Red Cross Chapter provides to disaster victims.

Over the decades, the agency's services have evolved to continue to meet the needs of the communities it serves. The Red Cross was founded in 1881 by Clara Barton. During WWI and WWII, the Red Cross provided extensive services to the members of the U.S. military, supplying more than 80 percent of the bandages used on the battlefields

and in the military hospitals. Red Cross nurses and volunteers served in those overseas hospitals, as well as the VA hospitals back home.

Following the wars, new services were formed to meet the needs of veterans. The Red Cross began to expand into home and workplace first aid programs. Swimming lessons and lifeguard training, once unheard of, became a part of hundreds of thousands of children's lives and continues today. CPR and first aid are still taught every week at the Mid-Rio Grande Chapter and around the state and country. In Albuquerque and central New Mexico alone, more than 13,000 people are trained every year.

In New Mexico, the Red Cross also runs a bone and tissue transplantation program. They work closely with United Blood Services to help ensure an adequate blood supply.

In addition to the Albuquerque chapter, the Red Cross also operates chapters in Clovis, Farmington, Hobbs, Las Cruces, Los Alamos, Roswell and Santa Fe.

Throughout program's lifetime, one service has remained constant: disaster relief. Response to fires, floods, windstorms, winter storms, hazardous material spills, transportation accidents, and search and rescue operations has all been part of the everyday work of the American Red Cross, Mid-Rio Grande Chapter. Just last year, they responded to 229 disasters and assisted 285 families, not including the aid given to victims of the Cerro Grande Fire. The Chapter also trains thousands a year in disaster education in an effort to help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

This year, as the Chapter celebrates its 85th anniversary of service, we honor years of commitment and the contributions volunteers have made to our communities by improving and saving lives. These services are made possible only through the generous donations of the people of New Mexico and the nation.

I commend the efforts of the Mid-Rio Grande Chapter of the American Red Cross. I encourage everyone to learn more about the Red Cross and its support services. It is a great organization that relies on public support to ensure that it remains strong and ready to respond to emergency and public safety needs in Albuquerque, the state, the nation, and the world. It is hard to imagine what this country might have been like without the great contributions of one of the world's oldest and largest humanitarian organizations—the American Red Cross.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1297. A communication from the Regulatory Contact of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fees for Official Commodity and Rice Inspection Service" (RIN0580-AA74) received on March 30, 2001; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1298. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or services under a contract in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more to Norway; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1299. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or services under a contract in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more to Russia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1300. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "List of Communities Eligible for the Sale of Flood Insurance" (FEMA Doc. 77750) received on March 29, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1301. A communication from the Counsel for Regulations, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Operating Subsidies Under the Operating Fund Formula" ((RIN2577-AB88) (FR-4425-I-12)) received on March 30, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1302. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning the financial statements and schedules for 1999 and 2000; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1303. A communication from the President of the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the financial statements for 1999 and 2000; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1304. A communication from the Executive Secretary of the Office of Human Research Protection, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Human Subjects; Delay of Effective Date" (RIN0925-AA14) received on March 29, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.